



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

I 1
4/4/07

912249

APR 04 2007

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF: SE-5J

Mr. Richard Reiner
Operations Manager
Rexnord Seal Operation
634 Glenn Avenue
Wheeling, Illinois 601090

RE: Rexnord Seal Operation, Wheeling, Illinois

Dear Mr. Reiner:

On March 12, 2007, representatives of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), met with you regarding the February 5, 2007, mercury manometer spill. As a result of confirmation that mercury left the Rexnord Seal Operation premises and had entered residences, we considered the Rexnord mercury spill an issue of public health.

Please note that we appreciated the responsiveness of Rexnord's outside counsel, Ms. Janine Landow-Esser of Quarles & Brady, LLP, and environmental consultant, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc., in providing details and data so we were able to ascertain that there were mainly three locations of concern. These locations were: 1475 Rebecca Drive, #201, Hoffman Estates, Illinois; 208 West Hilltop, McHenry, Illinois; and Rexnord's Wheeling facility.

As you know, we used a Lumex®, which is the same equipment used by your contractor, SET of Wheeling, Illinois, to screen for mercury in all three locations in March 2007. Results for the Hoffman Estates residence demonstrated no human health hazard for mercury on March 1. On March 1, the McHenry, Illinois residence demonstrated mercury present inside the clothes dryer, which was why we had you replace their dryer. Lumex® readings on March 12 demonstrated no human health hazard in the McHenry home. Lumex® readings taken on March 12 in the Rexnord facility demonstrated no human health hazard. The table below provides specific results for the Rexnord building in nanograms per a cubic meter (ng/m³) of mercury.

LOCATION	FIRST READING	SECOND READING	THIRD READING
Outside	10	11	
Office area near door to mfg. area	20	12	12

Hallway between offices and mfg. area	12	10	10
Shipping area	11	11	
Stockroom about 100 feet east of spill	37	35	34
About 50 feet east of spill	119	153	117
Spill site, over crack with epoxy sealant	118	86	84
Spill site, over crack with epoxy sealant	96	116	168
Spill site, over crack with epoxy sealant	39		
About 6 feet south of crack	44	43	

According to ATSDR, a commercial or occupational facility where mercury is not normally handled, the indoor level for mercury vapor in the breathing zone should not exceed 3,000 ng/m³. The highest result detected in your facility on March 12 was 168 ng/m³ of mercury, which was immediately over the original spill location in the plant and the crack that had been sealed with epoxy. We expect mercury vapors to dissipate with time.

If you have any questions or have additional concerns, please free to contact me at (312) 886-3601 or Dr. Thomas Baughman, IDPH, at (630) 293-6800, or Dr. Mark Johnson, ATSDR, at (312) 886-0840.

Sincerely,



Verneta Simon
On-Scene Coordinator

cc: Dr. Thomas Baughman, IDPH
Dr. Mark Johnson, ATSDR

bcc: Monesh Chabria, C-14J
Charles Gebien, SE-5J
Carol Ropski, SE-5J